

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 10, 11, 15 and 16 will have been amended, and claims 7-9, 12-14 and 18 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 15 and 16 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claim 6 is allowable and that claims 10 and 15 contain allowable subject matter (see, page 12 of the Official Action).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKRAM et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,148,715) in view of SMITH (U.S. Patent No. 5,690,467);

the Examiner rejected claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKRAM and SMITH, in view of LITT (U.S. Patent No. 5,091,963);

the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKRAM and SMITH, in view of HIRUTA (U.S. Patent No. 5,952,841).

the Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKRAM and SMITH, in view of ZAISER (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,646);

the Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKRAM, SMITH, and HIRUTA, in view of KIYOKAWA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,019,564);

the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKRAM, SMITH, KIYOKAWA, and ZAISER;

the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKRAM and SMITH, in view of TRAN (U.S. Patent No. 6,944,324); and

the Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AKRAM, SMITH, and TRAN in view of LITT.

Rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In regard to the rejections of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, claim 1 has been amended solely in order to expedite prosecution of the present application.

In this regard, Applicants submit that AKRAM, SMITH, HIRUTA, and ZAISER, alone or in any properly reasoned combination, fail to disclose the features recited in amended claim 1. In particular, claim 1 sets forth an image sensor test system including, inter alia, an attachment portion configured to attach the light source and the test head to the image sensor test system so as to place the light source and the test head beneath the image sensor.

In setting forth the rejections of claims 1-5, the Examiner asserts that AKRAM discloses an image sensor test system comprising a light source 180 positioned within the

test system 120 so as to place the light source beneath the image sensor 240 (see, paragraph 5, beginning on page 4 of the Official Action).

However, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Applicants submit that the device of AKRAM is very different structurally from the presently claimed image sensor test system.

More specifically, Applicants submit that, in addition to the light source 280 being positioned beneath the image sensor 240, AKRAM also discloses a test head 290 positioned above the image sensor 240 (see Figure 2 of AKRAM).

Thus, Applicants submit that AKRAM, alone or in any properly reasoned combination, fail to disclose at least the presently claimed attachment portion configured to attach the light source and the test head to the image sensor test system so as to place the light source and the test head beneath the image sensor.

Additionally, Applicants submits that the above-noted features of the presently claimed image sensor test system has at least one advantage over the applied prior art in that design limitations of the test head, the handler and the light source are considerably decreased.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are improper and should be withdrawn.

Canceled Claims

In regard to the rejections of claims 7-9, 12-14, and 18 (without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections), these claims have been canceled. Therefore, it is not necessary to discuss the appropriateness of the above-listed rejections. Further,

Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit claims of a related scope in another application. Thus, the cancellation of claim 7-9, 12-14, and 18 is without prejudice.

Indicated Allowable Subject Matter

In regard to claims 10, 11, 15 and 16, Applicants have rewritten claims 10 and 15 (which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter) into independent form.

Thus, Applicant submits that claims 10 and 15, as well as claims 11 and 16 depending respectively therefrom, have been placed in allowable form. Therefore, it is not necessary to discuss the appropriateness of the above-listed rejections of these claims

Conclusion

In view of the herein-contained remarks, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 15 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2-5, 11, and 16, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because of their dependencies from independent claims 1, 10 and 15 which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance contained in the Official Action (*see* paragraph 11 under the header “Allowable Subject Matter” of the Official Action dated June 5, 2008), Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claim 6 in the present application.

In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the prior art references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

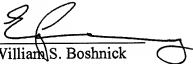
SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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